

Sharmila Sen
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Office hrs: By appointment

English E-225/ Postcolonial Narratives
Spring 2008, Tu 5:30-7:30

- 1/29 Introduction: What, when, where, who is postcolonial?
- 2/5 *Heart of Darkness* (Joseph Conrad)
- 2/12 *Things Fall Apart* (Chinua Achebe)
- 2/19 *Things Fall Apart* (Chinua Achebe)
"The Language of African Literature" (Ngugi wa Thiongo)
- 2/26 *Nervous Conditions* (Tsitsi Dangarembga)
- 3/4 *Nervous Conditions* (Tsitsi Dangarembga)
- 3/11 "Caliban" (Roberto Fernandez Retamar)
Excerpts from *Pleasures of Exile* (George Lamming)
- 3/18 *Cambridge* (Caryl Phillips)
- 4/1 *Cambridge* (Caryl Phillips)
- 4/8 *Lagaan* (dir. Ashutosh Gowariker) [screening time TBA]
- 4/15 *Lagaan* (dir. Ashutosh Gowariker)
- 4/22 *Midnight's Children* (Salman Rushdie)
- 4/29 *Midnight's Children* (Salman Rushdie)
- 5/6 After postcolonial: wrap-up

Requirements:

- 20% Class Participation
30% Shorter paper (5pp.) – due 3/18/06 (paper topics assigned)
50% Longer paper (10pp) – due 5/13/06 (choose your own topic)

Texts:

All books available at the COOP and on reserve at Groassman. Coursepack at Gnomon Copy. Please order *Lagaan* will be screened on campus. You may also rent it from Netflix or your local video store.

Suggested secondary readings:

While these are all suggested readings, you are strongly urged to read all of them alongside the primary texts during the relevant weeks. The starred texts are especially important for your comprehension of many of the ideas pertinent to English E-225. You might also use some of these readings to help build your argument for the papers.

The bibliography at the end is intended to help you explore postcolonial studies in the future. Please feel free to discuss any of them with me if you wish.

Weeks 1-2

Said, Edward. "The Scope of Orientalism." *Orientalism* *

Loomba, Ania. *Colonialism/Postcolonialism* (excerpt)*

Weeks 7-9

Dabydeen, David. "Teaching West Indian Literature in Britain"

Weeks 10-14

Macaulay, Thomas Babington. "Minute on Indian Education"*

Rushdie, Salman. *Imaginary Homelands* (excerpt)*

Ghosh, Amitav. Letter to the Commonwealth Prize Committee (online)*

Trivedi, Harish. *Interrogating Post-Colonialism* (excerpt)

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Selected Bibliography

- Ahmad, Aijaz. *In Theory: Classes, Nations, Literatures*. London: Verso, 1992.
- Appiah, Anthony. *In My Father's House: Africa in the Philosophy of Culture*. London: Methuen, 1992.
- Benitez Rojo, Antonio. *The Repeating Island: The Caribbean and the Postmodern Perspective*. Durham: Duke University Press, 1996.
- Bhabha, Homi. *The Location of Culture*. New York: Routledge, 1994.
- Fanon, Frantz. *Black Skin, White Masks*. New York: Grove Weidenfeld, 1991.
- Gilroy, Paul. *The Black Atlantic: Modernity and Double Consciousness*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1993.
- Harris, Wilson. Preface to *The Guyana Quartet*. London: Faber and Faber, 1985.
- . *The Womb of Space: The Cross-Cultural Imagination*. London: Greenwood Press, 1983.
- Lamming, George. *The Pleasures of Exile*. Ann Arbor: University of Michigan, 1992.
- Loomba, Ania. *Colonialism/Postcolonialism*. London: Routledge, 1998.
- Miller, Christopher. *Blank Darkness: Africanist Discourse in French*. Chicago: The University of Chicago Press, 1985.
- Ngugi, wa Thiongo. *Decolonising the Mind: The Politics of Language in African Literature*. Portsmouth: Heinemann, 1986.
- Ong, Aiwah. *Flexible Citizenship: The Cultural Logics of Transnationality*. Durham: Duke University Press, 1999.
- Retamar, Roberto Fernandez. *Caliban and Other Essays*. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 1989.
- Rushdie, Salman. *Imaginary Homelands: Essays and Criticism 1981- 1991*. London: Granta in association with Penguin, 1992.
- Said, Edward. *Orientalism*. New York: Vintage Books, 1979.
- Selected Subaltern Studies*. Eds. Ranajit Guha and Gayatri Chakravorty Spivak. New York: Oxford University Press, 1988.
- Spivak, Gayatri Chakravorty. *Outside in the Teaching Machine*. New York: Routledge, 1993.